

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 121145Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4672

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: CODEL MCGOVERN

REF: LISBON 5353

1. SENATOR REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY EXPRESS HIS REGRETS AND DECLINE INVITATION TO SPEAK BEFORE AMERICAN CLUB OF LISBON AT SEPTEMBER 22 LUNCHEON. SENATOR SAID HE IS VISITING PORTUGAL PRIMARILY ON FACT-FINDING MISSION AND WISHES TO EMPHASIZE HIS DESIRE FOR "HEAVY" SCHEDULE OF CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADING PORTUGUESE POLITICAL FIGURES OF ALL PERSUASIONS (INCLUDING CUNHAL) AS WELL AS WITH "INSIGHTFUL" PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS, ANALYSTS AND MEDIA.

2. SENATOR'S AIDE (JOHN RITCH) TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER SENATOR FEELS AMERICAN CLUB LUNCHEON WOULD BE HEAVY DEMAND ON HIS LIMITED TIME WHERE EMPHASIS ON HIS VISIT WOULD BE CHANGED FROM THAT DESCRIBED ABOVE. RITCH SAID CODEL HAD BEEN INFORMED OF AMERICAN CLUB INVITATION WHILE STILL IN WASHINGTON, THOUGH SENATOR HAD MADE UP HIS MIND ONLY AFTER ARRIVING LONDON.

3. FYI: RITCH TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER SENATOR CONTINUES TO BE INSISTENT ON CUNHAL CONVERSATION IN SPITE OF EMBASSY LISBON'S VIEWS. RITCH REFERRED TO EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS WITH LISBON NOT AVAILABLE LONDON, IN WHICH EMBASSY'S OPINIONS WERE COUNTERED BY HIS. SENATOR CON-

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TINUES TO FEEL CUNHAL INTERVIEW AND POSSIBLE COMMUNIST EXPLOITATION NOT, REPEAT NOT, SUFFICIENTLY STRONG REASON

TO MISS OPPORTUNITY FOR CONVERSATION WITH CUNHAL AND IF
EMBASSY NOT PERSUADED, SENATOR WILL USE OTHER CHANNELS
(HIS WORDS) TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENT. END FYI.

RICHARDSON

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